

LITERARY NOTES.

New Publications.

The manuscript of one of Dickens's books, owned in this country; but of only one, it is believed. Mr. Childs of Philadelphia, is the fortunate possessor of it. Soon, however, another will be here. Mr. Welford has secured in London the manuscript of the "Sketches of Young Gentlemen," one of Dickens's very earliest works, and not contained in the ordinary editions. The handwriting in it is said to be remarkable, and even more unlike the author's later day hand. At the same time Mr. Welford has obtained one of Lord Lytton's manuscripts and one of Mr. Browning's. The former will reach New-York, probably, within a fortnight.

Mr. Whittier acknowledges himself in error in the version he has given of the story of "Old Paul Ireson" and his horrid horn," in the celebrated ballad which he wrote about it. Mr. Roads in his "History of Marbleshead" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) gives the true facts in the case, and has sent me a copy of the book to Mr. Whittier, the poet writes to him as follows: "I have now no doubt that my version of Skipper Ireson is the correct one. My verse was solely founded on a fragmentary rhyme which I heard from one of my early schoolmates, a native of Marbleshead. I supposed it to be a traditional story, but when I read the true facts in your book, I was greatly surprised at the honest and simple way in which you have told them. I am glad, for the sake of truth and history, that the real facts are given in your history, and I sincerely hope that you may do justice to any one dead or living."

For the permanent pedestal of the statue of "Lord Byron recently set up in London, it is proposed that use be made of a pillar from the Athenaeum Parthenon. Objection has very probably been raised to this on the ground that by so strongly condemning the removal of Augustus and statues from this famous relic of ancient art, one of his outbreaks against his countrymen in the second canton of Chiloé Harold:

"God is the heart, fair Greece, that looks on thee. Not men in thy bower o'er the dust they loved; But is the eye that will not weep to see thy walls in ruins, and thy towers removed? By her who has it, which it had best behaved To guard those robes never to be restored. Cursed be the hour when from their nests they roved, And once again the hapless birds are scattered, As I watched the shrinking gods to northward climes abhorred."

In a foot note he refers to Athens as "a scene of petty intrigue and perpetual disturbance between the weaker and the stronger, the ovis and serpents in the ruins of Babylon were surely less disturbing than they."

"How are the mighty fallen," he says,

"The walls of the Athenaeum Parthenon removed,

By her who has it, which it had best behaved

To guard those robes never to be restored.

Cursed be the hour when from their nests they roved,

And once again the hapless birds are scattered,

As I watched the shrinking gods to northward climes abhorred and his pursuits."

Mr. George Long's translation of Marcus Aurelius's "Meditations," published about five years ago, is now accepted as the standard version of this work. Formerly there was practically no good one to be had. Jeremy Collier had been the chief, but his faults were many. The first English translation is by no means well known, and the cyclostyled fan altogether to mention it. It was made by Marie Casanova, precentor of Christ Church, Canterbury, and published in 1634, with a second edition in 1635. Mr. Casanova, in a quiet note to the reader, after remarking on the book having

"so many ages been undeservingly buried in darkness," says that many years before him there had been a certain book first written in Spanish and afterwards translated into Italian, French, English and how many tongues he knows not, which pretended by its title to be a translation of Marcus Aurelius, but that the author was in good earnest he can never believe. "Sure I am," he says, "that by his whole book it did not appear that he had even so much as seen that Marcus when his title doth promise unto others."

Mr. Casanova's translation was not till this week of Long & Co., Cambridge, Boston, who recently paid a valuable tribute to the wisdom of this noble human product of piety—indeed almost its last product that was notable—and the men who had done so much to bring it to us.

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want to read his book as men read the Bible, daily; but he did not read it in English, for he died three years before. Mr. Casanova, in his preface, says, "I have not seen the man who had done so much to bring it to us."

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